

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 7 and 9 are amended, and claims 11-13 are added. No new matter is added.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Examiners Qin and Coles in the September 20, 2005 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

A. Claims 1, 7 and 9

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,673,373 to Nosaki et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 7 and 9 would not have been rendered obvious by Nosaki. Nosaki does not disclose the registration device and the providing device, as recited in claim 1. Similarly, Nosaki does not disclose the step of providing print data with a provider, as recited in claim 9. Nowhere does Nosaki disclose these features.

Nosaki does not disclose the claimed registration device that registers print data in a storage device in association with authentication information when a data registration request is received. The claimed registration device transmits to a terminal designated by the data registration request usage certificate data which includes the authentication information. Second, Nosaki does not disclose the claimed providing device that transmits to a terminal designated by the data usage request the print data in the storage device relating the received data request (when the authentication information in the storage device and the authentication information included in the received data usage request satisfy a predetermined relationship). Nowhere does Nosaki disclose these features.

Nosaki, instead, discloses that after an operator transfers the data from a PC to a file server, the file server transmits the data to a printer. However, if the data is secret, the print

server of Nosaki issues a password after receiving the data, which is sent to the file server. See, e.g., Nosaki, col. 6, lines 4-46. That is, Nosaki does not register the data or allow a terminal to be designated by a data request (after the data is registered).

Namely, by using the claimed certificate data, print data that is held in the storage device can be obtained from any arbitrary terminal in the instant application. That is, the register of print data and issuance of the user certificate data can be executed in a terminal that is not a printer. Furthermore, in the instant application, the relationships between a person who registers print data and a person who obtains print data, and a file server and a printer, are not fixed.

In contrast, a user inputs the Print Job specific data through the control panel of the print server of Nosaki so that the print server, not the file server, outputs the data. See, e.g., Nosaki, col. 6, lines 4-46. Thus, the print data is stored in a print server associated with the file server in a fixed manner. Furthermore, the printing of a print data from an arbitrary printer by an operator from a POS terminal as in the instant application can not be implemented by the system disclosed in Nosaki.

Thus, claims 1 and 9 are patentable over Nosaki. Further, claim 7, which depends from claim 1, is also patentable over Nosaki for at least the reasons discussed with respect to claim 1, as well as the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

B. Claims 2 and 10

The Office Action rejects claims 2 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nosaki in view of U.S. Patent No. 6, 862,103 to Miura. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 2 and 10 have not been rendered obvious by Nosaki in view of Miura. Miura does not remedy the deficiencies of Nosaki with respect to claims 1 and 9. Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and claim 10 depends from claim 9. Thus, claims 2 and 10 are patentable over

Nosaki and Miura for at least the reasons discussed with respect to claims 1 and 9, as well as the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

C. Claims 3-6 and 8

The Office Action rejects claims 3-6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nosaki in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,314,521 to DeBry. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 3-6 and 8 would not have been rendered obvious by Nosaki in view of DeBry. DeBry does not remedy the deficiencies of Nosaki discussed with respect to claim 1. Claims 3-6 and 8 depend from claim 1. Thus, claims 3-6 and 8 are patentable over Nosaki and DeBry for at least the reasons discussed with respect to claim 1, as well as the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Randi B. Isaacs
Registration No. 56,046

JAO:RBI/jfb

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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